

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A staple oligonucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1 which is a single-stranded oligonucleotide comprising a 5'-end sequence, an intermediate sequence and a 3'-end sequence, the 5'-end sequence having a reverse complementarity with the intermediate sequence, the 3'-end sequence having a reverse complementarity with the intermediate sequence and the intermediate sequence having loops at both ends, and the loops ~~each comprising three to ten nucleotides and~~ not forming a complementary bond intermolecularly.

Claims 2-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is a DNA or a DNA derivative.

9. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, whose phosphate groups are not phosphorothioated.

Claim 10 (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A medicament comprising the staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1.

12. (currently amended) The medicament according to claim 11, which is a transcription factor inhibitor, an antisense oligonucleotide or an siRNA.

13. (original) The medicament according to claim 12, wherein the transcription factor inhibitor is an antagonistic inhibitor.

14. (currently amended) The medicament according to claim 12, wherein the transcription factor is ~~NF- $\kappa$ B~~ ~~one selected from the group consisting of NF- $\kappa$ B, STAT-1, STAT-2, STAT-3, STAT-4, STAT-5, STAT-6, GATA-3, AP-1, E2F, Ets and CRE.~~

15. (previously presented) The medicament according to claim 12, which is an agent for preventing, treating or improving inflammation, an allergic disease, an autoimmune disease, a central disease, reperfusion injury in a ischaemic disease, worsened prognosis after organ transplantation or organ surgery, or restenosis after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

16. (previously presented) The medicament according to claim 15, wherein the inflammation is arthritis, dermatitis, nephritis, hepatitis, renal failure, cystitis, prostatitis, urethritis, ulcerative colitis or Crohn disease.

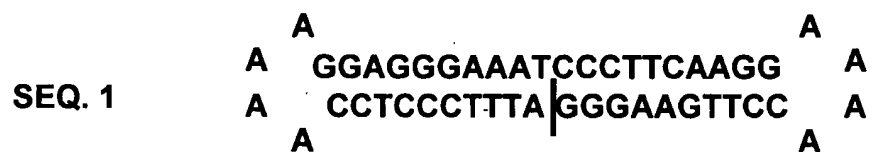
17. (original) The medicament according to claim 16, wherein the arthritis is chronic rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis.

18. (original) The medicament according to claim 16, wherein the dermatitis is atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, cutaneous ulcer or decubitus.

Claim 19 (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A method for preventing, treating or improving a disease against which a transcription factor inhibitor, an antisense or an siRNA is efficacious, the method comprises the step of administering, to a patient, a pharmacologically effective amount of the staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1.

21. (new) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, which is represented by the structural formula:



wherein the vertical line is a non-binding site (5' end and 3' end).